

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In dental floss, the improvement comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material that changes

5 color when said dental floss is passed between teeth of a user.

2. In dental floss, the improvement comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material that changes

10 color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva.

3. In dental floss, the improvement comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material that changes

15 color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva within an in vivo temperature range.

4. In dental floss, the improvement comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material that changes

color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth.

20 5. In dental floss, the improvement comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material that changes

color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth within an in vivo

temperature range.

6. In dental floss, the improvement comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a material that indicates the

5 presence of one or more of a virus, disease, infection, bacteria, or plaque.

7. In dental floss, the improvement comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a medicament or anti-microbial
material.

8. A dental hygiene material, comprising:

dental floss; and

a coloring material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss
that changes color when said dental floss is passed between two adjacent teeth.

9. A dental hygiene material, comprising:

dental floss; and

a coloring material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss
that changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of
20 saliva.

10. A dental hygiene material, comprising:

dental floss; and

a coloring material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss that changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva within an in vivo temperature range.

11. A dental hygiene material, comprising:

dental floss; and

a coloring material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss that changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth.

12. A dental hygiene material, comprising:

dental floss; and

a coloring material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss that changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth within an in vivo temperature range.

13. A dental hygiene material, comprising:

dental floss; and

a material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss that is capable of indicating the presence of one or more of a virus, disease, infection, bacteria, or plaque.

14. A dental hygiene material, comprising:

dental floss; and

a medicament or anti-microbial material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss.

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15. A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between teeth of a user, comprising:

coating or impregnating the dental floss with a colored material that changes color when said dental floss is passed between two adjacent teeth of said user.

16. A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between teeth of a user, comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material that changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva.

17. A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between teeth of a user, comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material that changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva within an in vivo temperature range.

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18. A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between teeth of a user, comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material that changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth.

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19. A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between teeth of a user, comprising:

coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material that changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth within an in vivo temperature range.

20. A method for identifying the presence of virus, disease, infection, bacterial or plaque between teeth of a user, comprising:

coating or impregnating dental floss with a material that indicates the presence of one or more of a virus, disease, infection, bacteria, or plaque.

21. A method for administering a medicament or anti-microbial agent between teeth of a user, comprising:

coating or impregnating dental floss with a medicament or anti-microbial material.

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22. Dental floss coated or impregnated with a material comprising:

0 to 5% K_2CO_3 , 0 to 5% Na_2CO_3 , 0-5% glycerol, 30 to 60% H_2O , 30 to 60%

ethanol, 0 to 2% flavorings, 0 to 0.5% CHG/CHA, 0 to 0.5% NaF, 0.1 to 3.0% indicator dyes, 10 to 40% soluble polymers, and 0 to 5% Triethanol amine;

wherein the indicator dyes are selected from the group of indicator dyes consisting essentially of thymol blue, bromthymolphthalein and other non-toxic pH indicators as well as specific aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, virus and disease condition indicators; and

wherein the soluble polymers are selected from the group of soluble polymers consisting essentially of cellulose and polyethylene oxide pyrrolidone.

23. A dental floss assembly, comprising:

a housing;

at least one spool of dental floss disposed within said housing; and

a coloring material coating said dental floss that changes color when said dental floss is used.

24. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 23:

wherein said dental floss changes color when subjected to friction.

25. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 23:

wherein said dental floss changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva.

26. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 24:

wherein said dental floss changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva within an in vivo temperature range.

27. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 23:

wherein said dental floss changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes.

28. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 27:

wherein said dental floss changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes within an in vivo temperature range.

29. A dental floss assembly, comprising:

a housing;

at least one spool of dental floss disposed within said housing; and

a medicament impregnating said dental floss.

30. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:

wherein said medicament comprises an anti-microbial agent.

31. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:

wherein said medicament comprises sodium fluoride (NaF).

32. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:

wherein said medicament comprises chlorhexidine digluconate (CHG).

33. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:

wherein said medicament comprises chlorhexidine acetate (CHA).

34. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:

wherein said dental floss is scented.

35. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:

wherein said dental floss is flavored.

36. A dental floss assembly, comprising

a housing;

at least one spool of dental floss disposed within said housing; and

a disease indicating agent impregnating said dental floss.

37. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 36:

wherein said disease indicating agent is an oral cancer detecting agent.

38. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 36:
wherein said disease indicating agent comprises a plaque indicator.

39. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 38:
wherein said plaque indicator comprises fluorescein sodium.

40. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 36:
wherein said plaque indicator comprises an enzyme detector.

41. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 40:
wherein said enzyme detector is used to detect diabetes.

42. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 36:
wherein said dental floss is scented.

43. A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 36:
wherein said dental floss is flavored.